

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 156195

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R 182320Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BERN 2170 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO PEKING
JUL 7TH.

QUOTE:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERN 2170

E.O9 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, PFOR, SZ, CH

SUBJ: SWISS FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT PRC

1. SWISS FEDERAL COUNCILOR PIERRE GRABER, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (FOREIGN MINISTRY), WILL VISIT PEKING BEGINNING AUGUST 1 FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH PRC PRIMARILY ON ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SUBJECTS AND TO PREPARE AT FORMAL OPENING ON AUGUST 7 OF LARGE SWISS INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION. VISIT HAS NOT YET BEEN ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY. GRABER WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR JOLLES, DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF COMMERCE; AMBASSADOR RAYMOND PROBST, DEPUTY UNDER JOLLES RESPONSIBLE FOR SWISS TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH STATE-TRADING COUNTRIES; AND MICHAEL GELZER OF POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF JUNE 6, PROBST NOTED THAT NO TRADE OR ECONOMIC AGREEMENT HAS BEEN SIGNED

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PAGE 02 STATE 156195

BETWEEN SWITZERLAND AND CHINA BUT REFRAINED FROM PREDICT-

ING WHAT MIGHT BE ACCOMPLISHED IN GRABER TALKS IN PEKING.
HE NOTED THAT SWISS HAVE BEEN PLEASED BY RECENT EXPORT
PERFORMANCE TO PRC OF SUCH ITEMS AS WATCHES AND MACHINERY
AND HAVE DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE PROMOTION RESOURCES TO
PEKING EXHIBIT. PROBST SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED
TO HAVE ERNST BRUGGER, FEDERAL COUNCILOR FOR DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC ECONOMY, OPEN EXHIBIT AND HANDLE DISCUSSIONS,
BUT BRUGGER'S POSITION AS SWISS PRESIDENT DURING 1974
PRECLUDES EXTENSIVE FOREIGN TRAVEL.

3. EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT SWISS WOULD LIKE CONCLUDE FRAME-
WORK TRADE/ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT INCLUDING POS-
SIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF MIXED COMMISSION IN WHICH SWISS
INDUSTRY COULD PARTICIPATE.

DAVIS
QUNQUOE INGERSOLL

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